(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) During the visit of the Chinese Premier, the two sides exchanged views on the India-China boundary question. They expressed satisfaction over the progress made in the discussion between the Special Representatives and concluded an "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of India-China Boundary Question". The need to seek an early clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control through the mechanism of Joint Working Group was also reiterated. The "Protocol on Modalities for the Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas" was also signed.

Nepalese broadside against India

3139. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepal recently launched a broadside against India; and

(b) if so, details thereof and the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Government of India is aware of the remarks made by Dr. Tulsi Giri, Vice Chairman of Nepalese Council of Ministers, in which, among other issues, he criticized GoI for not participating in the SAARC Summit in February 2005.

Government of India has not officially responded to the statement of Dr. Tulsi Giri.

American concerns over Indo-Iran gas pipeline

3140. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the course of her visit, the US Secretary of State, expressed her deep concern over India-Iran pipeline;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government of U.S. Secretary's disapproval for the above gas pipeline from Iran to India and how this affects India's independent foreign policy;

(c) whether India is going to stop this pipeline in view of US expressing its concern; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) During her visit to India, Secretary of State Dr. Condoleeza Rice stated at a press conference on March 16, 2005 that "I think our views concerning Iran are well-known by this time and we have communicated to the Indian Government our concerns about the gas pipeline cooperation between Iran and India".

(b) to (d) The position of the Government of India is that there are ongoing discussions between India, Pakistan and Iran on this matter. India's energy requirements are growing exponentially with rapid industrialisation. We have traditionally good relations with Iran. Government would take decisions on the gas pipeline based on India's national interest.

China's claim over Arunachal Pradesh

†3141. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China consider Arunachal Pradesh as a disputed territory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total area of India over which China is making its claims; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to protect its territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) China claims 90,000 square kilometers of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector.

(c) China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 square kilometers in the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 square kilometers of Indian territory in Pakistan

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.